

Black History Month Observance Secrets to Career Success – A Panel Discussion

USDA's observance of Black History Month began on February 4, 2009 with the opening ceremony held in USDA Jefferson Auditorium, in Washington, DC.

ASCR sponsored a panel discussion, "Secrets to Career Success." Secretary Tom Vilsack provided the opening remarks and spoke about the importance of diversity in President Obama's agenda. He made clear that his efforts alone could not advance the diversity agenda at USDA and emphasized that it would take the combined efforts of all USDA employees to move the department forward.

The Secrets to Career Success panel included Dr. Ronald Jones, Assistant Administrator for the Office of International Affairs, Food Safety Inspection Service; Altheria Myers, Branch Chief, Equal Employment Opportunity and Compliance at the Agriculture Research Service; and Danisha Montague-Lee, Equal Employment Specialist/Career Intern, Food Safety Inspection Service. Each panelist shared advice. Dr. Jones spoke of the necessity of selling yourself, putting your best foot forward, and learning to ask for what you want. Ms. Myers reminded managers and supervisors of their responsibility to move USDA ahead in its diversity initiatives. And Ms. Montague-Lee highlighted the importance of setting goals and adhering to them.

[Link to Black History Month 2009 Photo Album](#)